

## **Abstract**

The Ohio State University, in collaboration with the All Ohio Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, requests \$24,975 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) number EPA-OSA-ORD-0601 (CFDA 66.510) for partial support to host a conference and workshop activity entitled: **Floodplains, riparian zones, and buffer strips: Key components to aquatic life attainment and self-sustaining stream and watershed systems.**

The activity will focus on recognizing accomplishments of the All Ohio Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (AOC-SWCS) over the last fifty years; exhibiting past efforts of soil and water scientists and engineers from around the country in advancing their field; and, through workshops, will provide opportunities to learn about cutting edge technologies and research that can be used to transform soil and water conservation from just a land management practice to a more comprehensive conservation approach that considers in-stream processes and the ecology of stream and watershed systems. While preliminary planning has already begun, planning and pre-conference activities will continue upon receipt of the requested EPA funds. We designate the project period as June 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. The conference and workshops will take place from September 5-8, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. Final reporting requirements as stipulated in the BAA will be submitted to EPA by December 31, 2006.

Activities to celebrate the past fifty years of the AOC-SWCS begin on September 5<sup>th</sup> with educational tours, exhibits, and a reception for all conference attendees. That evening, there will also be a celebration banquet for all SWCS members and other participants who wish to attend. The main conference will take place on September 6<sup>th</sup>, and will serve to link past and present soil and water conservation efforts through invited presentations and discussions. The panel of speakers includes leading experts in the fields of soil and water conservation and stream and watershed conservation. Workshops primarily will occur on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and will demonstrate the future of the field of soil and water conservation and stream restoration. Workshops will focus on erosion prevention and sediment control education and accreditation, stream restoration design with AutoCAD and RIVERMorph technology, understanding the geomorphology and ecology of streams with a focus on floodplain management, and meeting EPA water quality standards with stream restoration techniques. The workshops are designed to incorporate scientific and engineering practices from the academic, governmental, and non-governmental professional sectors.

Based on prior conferences we have organized, we anticipate this initiative will be well attended (150+) by scientists, engineers, and educators working to advance the field of environmental science in accordance with Goals 2, 4, and 5 of EPA's *Strategic Plan* (<http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2003sp.pdf>). Our panel of experts will present their research and applied work relating to soil and water conservation and the protection of streams and watersheds. They will identify future research needs and opportunities locally to overcome obstacles affecting human health and environmental protection nationally such as providing clean drinking water, solving the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia problem, and meeting federal water quality targets. The Ohio State University and the AOC-SWCS are eligible and have made requests for federal funding compliant with OMB Circular A-21 (Item J) and OMB Circular A-122 (Attachment B), respectively. Much of the requested funding is needed to pay the costs of the invited speakers and to keep the registration cost affordable without incurring a high risk of losing money in trying to carry out the event. Contact the Project Manager, Andy Ward, at [ward.2@osu.edu](mailto:ward.2@osu.edu) for additional information about this proposal.